

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: RTP NARCOTIC TRAINING PROGRAM

REF: BANGKOK 19242

1. THE DEPARTMENT AGREES IN PRINCIPLE THAT WE SHOULD SUPPORT THE RTP BUREAU OF EDUCATION FIVE-YEAR TRAINING PROGRAM OUTLINED IN REFTEL. WE WOULD PREFER, HOWEVER, TO DEFER ANY FINAL DECISION PENDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CURRENT TNPD TRAINING PROJECT IS PRODUCING QUALIFIED THAI NARCOTIC INSTRUCTORS AT THE SAN PHRAN POLICE FACILITY. CONSEQUENTLY, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT THE NEED FOR PARTICIPANT INSTRUCTOR TRAINING IN THE US WOULD BE MINIMAL (PARAS 6 AND 7 OF REF-TEL).

3. REGARDING THE INTERNATIONAL GOALS OUTLINED IN PARA 8

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OF REFTEL, WE ARE NOT CONVINCED OF THE DESIRABILITY OF HAVING DEA TRAINING TEAMS ASSIST IN THE TWO INTERNATIONAL COURSES SCHEDULED FOR FISCAL YEAR 1979. PAST DEA TRAINING HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN DEVELOPING THAI CAPABILITIES. IT WOULD SEEM, HOWEVER, THAT IT IS TIME FOR THE THAI TO PUT

INTO PRACTICE THE TRAINING EXPERTISE THEY ALREADY HAVE.

MOREOVER, SUCH DEA PARTICIPATION WOULD SEEM TO DETRACT FROM OUR OBJECTIVE OF HAVING ASIAN NARCOTIC OFFICIALS TRAINED BY OTHER ASIANS. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENCE, AND BEHIND-THE-SCENES ASSISTANCE AS NECESSARY, OF TRAINING ADVISER TOMAINO WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO ENSURE A SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM WITHOUT DETRACTING FROM THE CREDIT WHICH THE THAI WOULD RECEIVE BY CONDUCTING THEIR OWN PROGRAM.

4. THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING FACILITY DESIRED BY THE RTP APPEARS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR OBJECTIVES NOTED IN PARA 3 ABOVE. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, HESITATE TO FUND ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITY, BELIEVING IT PREFERABLE THAT THE THAI BUILD THE FACILITY. WE COULD THEN ASSIST BY SOME LIMITED ADVISORY AND MODEST COMMODITY ASSISTANCE AS NEEDED.

5. THE FIVE-YEAR TRAINING BUDGET ESTIMATES SET FORTH IN

PARA 9 OF REFTEL SEEM REASONABLE AND WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT'S ABILITY TO SUPPORT. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT NO COMMITMENT FOR SUCH FUNDING SHOULD BE MADE PRIOR TO A REVISION OF THE CURRENT TRAINING PROJECT PROAG IN ACCORDANCE WITH A NEW FORMAT CURRENTLY BEING FINALIZED IN THE DEPARTMENT. THIS NEW FORMAT WILL INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR SETTING FORTH SPECIFIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN A SYSTEMATIC MANNER TO AID IN MONITORING AND REPORTING OF PROGRESS.

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6. FSO RICHARD GIBSON (S/NM) PLANS TENTATIVELY TO BE IN THAILAND DURING AUGUST. IF ACCEPTABLE TO THE EMBASSY, HE COULD DISCUSS THE SUBJECT FURTHER AT THAT TIME. CHRISTOPHER

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